

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VIRTUAL POWERLINE LOCAL AREA NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for powerline networking. The system has an external data source, which is derived from a world wide networks of computers. A router is coupled to the external data source and coupled to a first datasource connection. A powerline network switch apparatus is coupled to the first datasource connection. The apparatus has a second datasource connection, which is coupled to the first data source connection. The apparatus also has a powerline device coupled to the second datasource connection. Preferably, the powerline device is adapted to receive and transmit information in a first format from the second data source connection and adapted to receive and transmit information in a second format. The apparatus also has a virtual local area network device including a first input/output port and a plurality of second input/output ports. Each of the second input/output ports is numbered from 1 through N, where N is an integer greater than 1. A plurality of modem devices are coupled to the virtual local area network device. The plurality of modem devices are numbered from 1 through N, where each of the plurality of modem devices being coupled respectively to one of the plurality of second input/output ports and where each of the plurality of modem devices also being coupled to one of a plurality of power lines numbered from 1 through N, each of the power lines being capable of communicating information to and from the second data source connection.

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